

Drug Policy Advisory Council
2nd Floor Conference Room, Wallace State Office Building
May 12, 2011
Minutes

Voting Council Members Present: Chairman Mark Schouten, Cyndy Erickson, Kevin Frampton, Richard Doyle, Paul Stageberg, Kathy Stone, Eric Snyder, Paul Steier for Dave Lorenzen, Warren Hunsberger, Jane Larkin, and Christina Wilson.

Non-voting Members Present: Stephan Arndt, Steve Martens for Major Sonya Finch, Iowa National Guard and Shannon Hagge, Alcoholic Beverages Division.

Guests: Lt. Eric Nation and Aaron Groves, Jasper Co. Sheriff's Office, and Stephanie Strauss, Alcoholic Beverages Division.

Staff: Dale Woolery, Becky Swift, Dennis Wiggins, Susie Sher and Becky Bell.

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Mark Schouten called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Chairman Schouten introduced Warren Hunsberger who replaced John Garringer on the Council.

Chairman Schouten asked for any corrections to the minutes of February 12, 2011. A motion was made by Paul Stageberg and seconded by Kevin Frampton with the Council voting unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

ODCP Updates

Pseudoephedrine Tracking System

Susie Sher reported on the national precursor log exchange (NPLEx) tracking system that has been in place since September. Currently, nine states have fully implemented the program, four have submitted legislation to their governor to come on board, and another ten are considering using NPLEx. After eight months of NPLEx in Iowa, there have been over 600,000 successful purchases of PSE, and 22 thousand attempts to purchase over the legal limit were blocked.

Lieutenant Eric Nation, of the Jasper County Sheriff's Office and MINE East Drug Task Force, introduced himself to the Council. He was invited to provide a summary of how the NPLEx system is working from a law enforcement perspective. He stated that in 1995, he would sit and do surveillance at a pharmacy and wait for the meth cooks to go in. After the suspects would go into the pharmacy, he would follow them and wait for them at the checkout line. Now, detectives monitor NPLEx data to help identify and investigate potential illegal meth manufacturing activity, which frees them up to do control buys, knock and talks, and drug endangered children programming.

Susie receives a suspicious activity report each month from pharmacists and sends it out to all authorized law enforcement, alerting officers to potential new cases they would otherwise be unaware of. This system is also creating a better working relationship between enforcement and pharmacists, and helping pharmacies comply with the law.

Detective Aaron Groves, also with the Jasper County Sheriff's Office, spoke to the Council on how the NPLEx system has made narcotics officers more effective and efficient in their jobs. The central database keeps many users from going from pharmacy to pharmacy to try and beat the system.

Susie reported that at the request of DNE and Midwest HIDTA, ODCP requested a random sample check of 100 IDs in the NPLEx system, to see how many people may be using fake ID's to purchase pseudoephedrine. NPLEx ran samples against driver's licenses and found 98% were correct.

Chairman Schouten said that in a lot of other states the system has not worked as effectively because of the use of false ID's. This is something that ODCP will continue to monitor as it could potentially cause problems.

Eric Snyder asked if there is training to help pharmacists recognize and address fake ID's. Susie said most of the pharmacies record ID's and many of the larger pharmacies use scanners. Smaller pharmacies were provided scanners by ODCP to scan IDs and scanners should help them know if something is wrong.

Legislative update

Becky Swift reported the Legislature is still in session, though it was scheduled to end April 29th. ODCP is still hoping to see something come of a proposal to make the new synthetic designer drugs commonly referred to as K2 and "bath salts", along with Salvia divinorum, Scheduled One Controlled Substances in Iowa.

Becky reported that House File 616 which would expand the Drug Policy Advisory Council to include the Alcoholic Beverages Division (ABD), and the Iowa Police Chief's Association, and make some corrections to other associations represented on the Council was unlikely to pass this session. It will be eligible for debate again next year.

A "medical marijuana" Senate bill to make marijuana a Schedule Two Controlled Substance did not go anywhere, but neither did the ODCP-backed proposal to clarify language keeping it a Schedule One drug.

Chairman Schouten also reported that legislation passed and was signed by the Governor to lift a sunset that had been in place for this year on Iowa's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP), which the Iowa Pharmacy Board oversees to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of Schedule One through Four Controlled Substances.

Federal Legislative Update

Dale Woolery distributed a handout from the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) containing a table of federal funding. The U.S. Department of Justice, which funds the Byrne-JAG program, juvenile justice programs and other public safety and criminal justice improvement programs, received a 17% across the board cut in the federal 2011 budget.

ODCP anticipates further funding reductions in FFY 2012.

ODCP Grant Cycle Update

Dennis Wiggins reported that ODCP recently received 45 Byrne JAG grant applications requesting a total of \$11 million dollars for State Fiscal 2012. ODCP has been spending 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Byrne JAG funding over three years, because of the ARRA spike and subsequent return to regular federal appropriations, ODCP will step down the amount of grant funding eligible to applicants, from about \$4.9 million dollars in State Fiscal 2011 to about \$2.2 million by State Fiscal 2014. This year ODCP can fund about 36% of the amount requested.

Mark and Dale were in Washington, DC a month ago and were told to expect no more congressional earmarks for at least two years.

Kathy Stone said the Department of Public Health has four jail based substance abuse treatment programs supported with federal earmarks (a.k.a. congressionally directed funding) and they will go away unless another way is found to fund them.

2012 Drug Control Strategy

Chairman Schouten reported ODCP is required to prepare a Drug Control Strategy by November 1. Mark asked council members for their input on the strategy.

Other Program Updates

Chairman Schouten will continue meeting with council members throughout the state to learn more about their organizations, programs and priorities.

ODCP works with the Partnership for a Drug-Free Iowa (PDFI), and will be working together to study drug-free workplace issues of mutual interests with the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) to survey Iowa businesses.

The PDFI Board met with Senator Grassley and he agreed along with Iowa First Lady, Chris Branstad, to conduct town hall meetings. Senator Grassley held town hall meetings around 10-12 years ago when he started the Face It Together statewide anti-drug coalition initiative. The meetings will be held in 20 communities over the next two years beginning in 2012.

PDFI is also trying to identify members of the faith-based community in Iowa, but is finding it difficult to get its arms around all of them. PDFI is also working with the Barnabus Uplift Program in Northeast Iowa.

New Council Member

Chairman Schouten welcomed Reverend Warren Hunsberger, who is the director of Teen Challenge of the Midlands, to his first meeting as a member of Iowa's Drug Policy Advisory Council following his recent appointment by Governor Branstad and asked him to introduce himself.

Agency/Association Updates

Paul Stageberg reported his office, the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) in the Iowa Department of Human Rights, is completing a project with ODCP grant funds on an extended recidivism study of drug court clients. CJJP is also working on a study for the Department of Corrections tracking offenders who have been in residential treatment facilities. CJJP will be tracking offenders using the Iowa Courts Information System to do recidivism studies.

Paul reported that a year ago the Legislature created the Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB), which is working on five different projects: 1) examining juvenile court waivers to adult court; 2) mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenders; 3) disparity in sentences for crack and cocaine; 4) juvenile life without parole and 5) an on-going study of protective orders effectiveness in different jurisdictions. The goal of PSAB was to bring together knowledgeable criminal justice decision makers and examine these issues and make recommendations to the Legislature.

Steve Arndt said the Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation will start a VA grant next month studying the medical management of veterans returning home with head injuries and substance abuse problems.

Shannon Pogones stated that the I-ALERT program, which is a tool designed to help alcohol retail licensees develop a guide for their business to stay compliant with the Iowa Liquor Laws and assist their employees with the responsible sale of alcohol through the use of uniform policy and best practices was launched last week.

Shannon mentioned that tobacco sales training for retail clerks has been on line since mid-October and ABD has received a lot of positive feedback.

Paul Steier reported DOT Interdiction efforts have had some very good success with trucks that have contained drugs or large amounts of cash over the years.

Jane Larkin of Youth and Shelter Services reported that members of the Iowa Alliance of Coalitions for Change (AC4C) conducted their "Day on the Hill" in February. Jane said AC4C met and discussed priority issues. Their number one priority is social host, followed closely by medical marijuana and compliance

checks. AC4C has developed an informational binder with talking points for legislators, information for a letter to the editor, and other information to use to educate communities.

Chairman Schouten said next session ODCP will join AC4C in supporting their legislative priorities.

Another priority AC4C has considered about the last few years is increasing the beer tax.

Steve Martens attended the meeting for Major Sonya Finch of the Iowa National Guard. The Guard has had a lot of uncertainty with unsteady budgets. The Midwest Counterdrug Training Center (MCTC) took a hit this year with funding. Criminal analysts supporting drug enforcement task forces are down from 15 to 6. The Guard has also reduced its Drug Demand Reduction section and ceased all support.

Kevin Frampton said the Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement continues to be busy on various fronts. He estimated DNE spends about 95% of its time reacting to meth labs and explosions. Kevin said meth cooks in Iowa are producing 5-10% of the meth as 90% of meth is coming in from out of the country. DNE is using a lot of resources for a small amount of meth but that small amount of meth causes a lot of other issues and problems.

Chairman Schouten asked Judge Richard Doyle how judges feel about getting involved in the development of policies or programs, such as drug courts, or intensive supervision where judges get involved more closely. Judge Doyle replied the judicial branch is involved in making those decisions with drug courts.

Cyndy Erickson provided an update on the Department of Education's (DOE) Safe and Supportive Schools grant.

Chris Wilson told the Council that MCTC funding cuts have impacted the substance abuse prevention professionals. One of the major concerns about not having MCTC resources as available as in the past is the lack of meeting facilities for training involving prevention groups that are expanding their capacity.

Kathy Stone distributed a fact sheet containing information on the State Incentive Grant (SIG).

Eric Snyder reported that the Ames Police Department used social networking to stop a large block party planned at Iowa State University (ISU) Veisha celebration. The department uses Facebook regularly to track parties, people, cases and evidence.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 11, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Bell